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For immediate release

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PROSSER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT

Prosser, WA -The recent passage of Initiative 1000, the “Washington State Death with Dignity Act”, has raised many questions for physicians, pharmacists, counselors and hospitals statewide.

“After careful, thoughtful conversations with our medical staff, board of commissioners, and administration, Prosser Memorial Hospital (PMH) has chosen to not participate under the ‘Washington State Death with Dignity Act.’ This means that Prosser Memorial Hospital medical staff, employees, independent contractors and volunteers shall not assist a patient in ending the patient’s life. Prosser Memorial Hospital will continue to provide compassionate, high quality care to all our patients. Any patient wishing to receive life-ending medication while a patient at this hospital will be assisted in transfer to another facility of the patient’s choice. The transfer will assure continuity of care explained Julie Petersen, PMH CEO

The Death with Dignity Act (“Act”) is clear that no provider, including Prosser Memorial Hospital, is required to assist a qualified patient in ending his or her own life. Hospitals that do not allow participation are required to provide public notice. Providers may independently contract outside their role with Prosser Memorial Hospital to participate in the Act, off hospital premises.

“All providers at Prosser Memorial Hospital will respond to any patient’s query about life-ending medication with openness and compassion. We at PMH believe our providers have an obligation to discuss openly the patient’s concerns, unmet needs, feelings and desires about the dying process. Providers should seek to learn the meaning behind

their patient's questions and assist the patient's understanding of available options, including but not limited to comfort care, hospice care and pain control. Ultimately, our goal is to help patients make informed decisions about end-of-life care," said Leann Anderson, Director of Patient Care for Prosser Memorial Hospital.